Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 13, to read as follows:

The interface circuit is preferably configured to operate in two modes of operation, a ~~local~~ non-local mode and a ~~nonlocal~~ local mode (also referred to herein as first and second modes, respectively). During the local (second) mode of operation, nonrequested user data from the recording medium are retrieved and placed into the buffer in anticipation of a future request for the nonrequested user data. During the local (first) mode of operation, nonrequested user data are not retrieved from the discs and are not placed into the buffer.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 29, to read as follows:

As discussed in greater detail below, the interface circuitry 124 advantageously operates to optimize data transfer performance by dynamically switching from a nonlocal (first) mode of operation to a local (second) mode of operation in relation to a detected access pattern in read commands issued by the host device. During a local mode of operation, nonrequested user data are retrieved from the discs 108 and placed into the buffer 130 in anticipation of a future request for the nonrequested user data. During a nonlocal mode of operation, such nonrequested user data are not retrieved from the recording medium and are not placed into the buffer.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 24, to read as follows:

In a preferred embodiment, each range of address blocks comprises a number equal to the maximum number of LBAs that can be assigned to a segment of the buffer 130. To alleviate confusion, it will be understood that the data sector address blocks shown in FIG. 6 do not necessarily represent nonrequested data that actually resides (or resided) in the buffer 130; rather, the data sector address blocks represent what potentially could have been placed into the buffer had a local mode technique been employed. It will further be noted that the blocks in FIG. 6 preferably represent data sector address ranges that are sequential within each range, but the data sector range of each consecutive read command in the table is non-sequential with respect to the data sector range of the previous read command (i.e., horizontal gaps exist between adjacent pairs of the blocks, as shown in FIG. 6).